

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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President—HENRY W. THURSTON, New York
Secretary—C. V. WILLIAMS, Chicago
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COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

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"When I saw how the family treated the children I understood what made the children rude and inconsiderate. Nobody in the family gave the children the slightest consideration. Never having been shown any, the children, of course, had none." — "CHILD TRAINING," BY ANGELO PATRI.

NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A well-attended meeting of the Executive Committee of the League was held in Chicago early in October. The following notes will be supplemented by a more detailed letter to be sent out shortly by the Executive Director:

NEW MEMBER

The Bethesda Society,
Boston, Mass., 24 Mt. Vernon Street,
Miss Anne P. Hincks, Executive Secretary

Action was postponed on three other applications until certain requirements had been met more fully or pending decision as to possible service the League might render, e. g., to the out-patient department of a hospital for the insane. There is room for more members in the League, but the Executive Committee wishes to be sure it can render real service before accepting such organizations into membership.

The Committee on Publications and Research is to publish a new case study, of a four-year-old child, and others as they are available. A beginning on research is to be made by enlisting the co-operation of agencies interested to supply material for a study of intake.

Mr. Howard W. Hopkirk briefly reported that his study of the church child-care situation, undertaken by the League for The Commonwealth Fund, with the assistance of the Federal Council of Churches, had everywhere received good co-operation. There are 408 such institutions in the country, and persons responsible for many of them are keenly interested in our service.

The Committee on Institutions believes the training of workers for institutions is an important service which the League members should help the central office to bring about, and that state licensing and supervision is necessary for standardizing. A resolution was adopted to the effect that the Executive Committee of the League is in favor of such provision and considers that responsibility is placed on the state governing board to determine both the need for the agency and the responsibility of its incorporators before granting a charter for a new piece of work.

The BULLETIN was made the center of discussion at the end of the meeting, when the Executive Director asked for criticisms and suggestions as to types of articles desired by members and size of the publication. A variety of opinion was developed without any conclusion being reached. The question is a very live one, on which the executive staff would be grateful for expressions of opinion, since the BULLETIN is to serve the members, not the staff. We suspect there are many pros and cons. Will you let us have them?

WANTED

Questions Wanted.

Have you read "How Foster Children Turn Out?" If you have, the League Committee on Publications and Research, Miss Georgia G. Ralph, Chairman, asks you to send in questions raised in your mind by Miss Theis's study.

If you haven't read it, won't you borrow it from the League Library or buy it for \$1.00 from the State Charities Aid Association, 105 E. 22d Street, so that you can join the rest of us in examining the first study of the kind ever made? The questions you send in to us will be made the basis of further study. Just twenty of our members have so far secured the book.

THE CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

What is the duty of the members of the League in relation to the proposed Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution now before the States for ratification?

First of all it is our duty to understand just what this proposed Amendment is and is not. It reads thus:

"Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit,

regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age.

"Section 2. The power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by Congress."

The proposed Amendment is *not a law*, but is *only an enabling act*, which, if ratified, will give Congress, chosen directly by the voters from all our farms, villages and cities, power to pass such laws as Congress thinks necessary relative to the labor of *persons under 18 only*. Our state legislatures, chosen by the same voters, now have power and will still have power if this Amendment is ratified, to pass any laws the state legislators think necessary relative to the labor of persons of all ages.

In short, the Amendment proposes only for persons under 18 that Congress shall have power to set minimum standards of labor which shall be the same in all states. Any state can still set higher standards for persons under 18 and all standards for persons over 18.

When the proposed Amendment is thus understood, the decision whether to approve or disapprove boils down to these basic questions:

Do we believe that all of us, speaking through our representatives in the House and Senate at Washington, should have power to say anything about the minimum conditions of safety and health under which children of any age shall work? Those of us who say no to the above question will of course oppose the Amendment.

Those of us who answer yes have yet to face the next question. To what age would we limit the power of Congress to set minimum standards of labor?

To those of us who believe Congress should have power to set minimum standards for child labor up to 16 years but are in doubt about the need of extending this power to persons 16 and 17 years of age, an appeal to the facts as to need of protection for persons of these two ages, as well as for those younger, will help us to a final decision on the Amendment as a whole.

If there is real need of protection for older children than 16 in some dangerous occupations, then in getting an enabling act by Constitutional Amendment it is just ordinary "common sense" to give Congress power in cases of such need up to 18 years.

The National Child Labor Committee is authority for these statements of fact:^{*}

"1. Thirty-five states fail to regulate adequately or reasonably the employment of children under 18 at dangerous employment; fourteen states fail as to children under 16; five states fail to make any distinction at all as to employments commonly recognized as dangerous.

* "A Defense of the American System of Government," Publication No. 320, pp. 8-9.

"2. In thirty-nine states it is not unlawful to put children under 18 to oiling or cleaning machinery in motion, and nineteen states permit children under 16 to be employed at this hazardous job.

"3. In thirty-nine states it is legal to put children under 18 running elevators, and in twenty-nine children under 16 may be thus employed.

"4. Twenty-two states have no laws to forbid or regulate the employment of children under 18 where dangerous or poisonous acids, liquids, dyes or gases are used."

A few illustrations in terms of human life and health will show what the work of minors in dangerous occupations means. The number of compensated accidents to minors under 18 years from July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1920, in the one State of New York was as follows: boys, 1,472; girls, 345; total, 1,817.*

In the State of Michigan during the year 1918, out of 1905 compensable accidents to minors there were 45 of persons under 16; 193 of persons 16 years old but under 17; and 291 of persons 17 but under 18 years old.[†]

"A study of industrial accidents to workers under 21 in Wisconsin, Massachusetts and New Jersey by the United States Children's Bureau shows 7,478 in one year, of which 38 were fatal and 920 resulted in partial disablement for life.

"The 16 and 17 year old ones suffered more accidents and more serious ones than those under 16, protected by law in these states, or those 18 to 21 who were more able to protect themselves."[‡]

To those who believe that Congress should have power to regulate the conditions of child labor for persons under 16 are not these few statements of fact as to limitations in state laws respecting dangerous occupations, and the further fact of the striking number of compensable accidents to persons under 18 in five states, sufficient evidence of a need of power to legislate for persons from 16 to 18 also?

The argument for rejecting the Amendment on the ground that it should not apply to children of 16 and 17 is being pushed largely on an emotional basis and by an appeal to prejudice, selfishness, and fear. The paralysis of fear is the easiest way to prevent action.

It is clearly up to members of the Child Welfare League of America to decide their attitude toward this Amendment of far-reaching importance to the childhood of the whole country, on an accurate knowledge of the facts and a clear analysis of their meaning. We cannot be neutral or moved merely by prejudice and fear in the matter and maintain our own self-respect.

—H. W. T.

* New York State Department of Labor, Special Bulletin, No. 116.

† Federal Children's Bureau Publication No. 126.

‡ Information Service Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, November 8, 1924. Compiled from Children's Bureau Release No. 3041, Industrial Accidents to Working Men.

IS THIS TRUE OF YOUR TOWN?

"To keep mothers and fathers alive through accident prevention, through adequate care during illness; at time of pregnancy; through good working conditions; good housing; in other words, to keep families intact, is a better and more fundamental way to help children than to create in this day and generation another agency like Girard College."

"Those children's agencies that best help children, take children into their care only after the most thoughtful study of home conditions, and who see that they are being called upon to give what own parents, under proper conditions, could give more effectually and lovingly. Foster care at best is generally a substitute for something that is better. It is easier to get money in Philadelphia to care for a child away from his mother than with her—yet we shout from the housetops that no child is to be taken from its mother because of poverty. Yet many are; and more is spent on the care of one child for a year than the mother would require to take care of all of her children. We make it easy for those agencies that remove children from their own homes, and hard for those who try to protect them in their homes. Surely an anachronism! Philadelphia as a community—and this is also true of others—is geared up to a wasteful, gigantic child-separation occupation, and large sums so spent might be better used to ease the strain on agencies and public as represented in the Welfare Federation of Philadelphia or the Jewish Federation. This city needs to get a new emphasis of the value of family life, and one way to help give it will be for the giving public to first support those agencies that preserve and protect family life."—J. PRENTICE MURPHY, *Philadelphia Forum*, Oct., 1924.

EIGHT HOUR DAY IN A CHILDREN'S INSTITUTION

At Ruth M. Smith Children's Home, Sheffield, Pa., the Superintendent and her Board have given serious consideration to the problems of the over-worked institutional employee. Excepting the Superintendent and her assistant, each member of the staff is expected to work only 48 hours a week.

This has resulted in the development of an unusually high morale among the workers. When a woman comes on duty she realizes that her opportunities for getting work done are limited. From kitchen to sewing room an air of dispatch prevails; there is none of the monotonous spirit about the place which so often accompanies the endless day of institutional drudgery. The women appear keenly interested in their work. Needless to say, the children receive less scolding and are attended to with greater patience than in other institutions visited.

One month a year, with pay, is the vacation allowance.

Not stopping at this, the management has considered the community's facilities for adult recreation. Sheffield is a small town; the nearest large city is not easily accessible. So on the institution's farm, at the edge of

the town, they have erected a modest cabin. It is fitted with comfortable beds, an oil stove, dishes, and books. A spring furnishing good water is just outside the door. Here two women can spend their night off, or a weekend. Occasionally groups of children are taken there for picnics and parties. The workers are enthusiastic about it.

These departures from institutional traditions may be explained in part by the fact that the Ruth M. Smith Home was founded only two years ago. The Directors have taken it for granted that institutional workers deserve as pleasant a life as is enjoyed by other servants of society.—H. W. H.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WELFARE IN VIRGINIA

The first Institute of Public Welfare held in Virginia was conducted from August 21-27, 1924, at the University of Virginia, under the joint direction of the State Board of Public Welfare and the University. A total enrolment of 101 exceeded expectations several times over. Contributing to the scope of interests were eleven judges of Juvenile Courts, six probation officers, ten county superintendents of public welfare, six social workers from churches; as well as representatives from ordinary welfare agencies, physicians, teachers, and volunteer workers.

Mr. C. C. Carstens, Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of America, led and took part in the discussions on each day. Mr. Joseph Murphy, Chief Probation Officer from Buffalo, New York, and representatives from the leading agencies in Virginia took an active part. Attention was focused on the need of similar institutes in the future, with longer courses and better training facilities, and the Children's Bureau in Richmond already reports a much greater demand for its services, which it considers results from the institute. Not least among the benefits was the intimate contact between the University and the social workers of the State.

CAN OTHER CHILDREN'S AGENCIES CONTRIBUTE EXPERIENCE?

A colored man, Clarence Lee Hamilton, and his two little boys, Mailand and Henry Lee, aged seven and six, were brought to the notice of the Children's Aid and Protective Society of Newark, N. J., by an agency in Morristown, N. J., where they had attempted to get a permit to sing on the streets.

They claim to have journeyed from South Carolina and have been traveling with a dilapidated horse and buggy, decorated with inscriptions such as "We are bound for Africa, and the Lord is with us."

They try to get permits to sing on the streets to the

accompaniment of a bass drum bearing the inscription "Serve the Lord with Gladness," and they have a printed religious song, "The Evening Sun Goes Down," written by Mr. Hamilton. When permits are refused the man tries to get employment from the city to tide him over until he can move on. The man claims that he has a wife living in Buffalo, but that he does not know her street address, and she is said to have a younger child, Rosalie, with her. The man and boys left Newark with the horse and buggy about the 1st of October and said they were going South again.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE SPECIAL CLASS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Francis N. Maxfield, Director of the Bureau of Special Education in the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Instruction, summarized the objectives of the Special Class in his Toronto paper as follows:

"1. *An adapted curriculum.* Trained teachers in well equipped rooms, by modifying the standard curriculum, give these children an opportunity that is not possible in the regular grades.

"2. *Mental analysis.* A thorough analysis of each child must be made. Physical condition, family history, and home background, as well as differences in intelligence, personality, and emotional stability, must be considered. Teaching must continue this diagnostic process.

"3. *Health education.* The development of physique and of health habits is both possible and desirable.

"4. *Mental hygiene.* Mental as well as physical hygiene can be corrective and preventive. Emotional stability and normal social reactions in simple life situations should be sought.

"5. *Prevocational training.* Much of the academic work of the standard curriculum should be replaced by industrial and household arts. This work is prevocational rather than vocational.

"6. *Guidance and supervision.* Responsibility for the mental defective should not cease when he leaves school at sixteen.

"7. *Conformity.* Well-behaved boys and girls with courteous manners and clear speech are less conspicuous than others, and more likely to succeed.

"8. *Influence on school organization and method.* The special class can and should influence the organization and method of all elementary school work by emphasizing the fact that schools are made for children and not children for schools."

NEAR EAST RELIEF GETS CO-OPERATION

At a dinner held at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City, September 25, 1924, Charles V. Vickrey reported that at a similar Golden Rule dinner in Jerusalem there were representatives of eighteen religious groups. In the interests of children it was possible to gather together in this unusual companionship Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the Armenian Gregorian Patriarch, a

representative of the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Near East Relief has demonstrated that age-long enemies can be attracted to the same table when summoned by the problems relating to the welfare of children. In the history of the world no organization has dared to invite such a diversity of guests, expecting co-operation.

Secretary Murray of the American Federation of Labor announced that each local union in the Federation will be asked to subscribe \$60, the annual support of a child in the Near East. Representatives of Railway Brotherhoods pledged their support of Golden Rule Sunday.

With Kemal Pasha, the Greek Patriarch, the American Federation of Labor, and the National Manufacturers' Association co-operating, American child welfare workers will do well to speed up in doing their bit for this mission of international good will. Golden Rule Sunday merits our support.—H. W. H.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN'S WORK OF THE REFORMED CHURCH

Not satisfied with a haphazard development of its institutions for dependent and neglected children, the Reformed Church in the United States intends to take stock of what it is doing. In the last issue of this Bulletin there was reference to the survey to be undertaken by the Forward Movement Commission of that church.

From the side of the institution comes another indication of this desire to adjust the work of the church to the needs of the child. In recommendations to the Synod from which it derives support, the Board of Directors of St. Paul's Orphans' Home, Greenville, Pa., records its convictions as follows:

"The Board believes that the time has come when the Synod, through the Orphans' Home, should extend its work for unfortunate children. There are many children who, for one reason or another, have been deprived of adequate parental support. Often this is only a temporary situation, and the greatest need is good advice and encouragement from a competent and experienced person. Then there are sometimes children who could and ought to be placed in private Christian homes. The Board is convinced that a valuable Christian service could be done by the Home in taking up and engaging in this phase of child welfare work."

In keeping with their policy of devoting as much care to the selection of employees as to the planning of buildings, the Board of Directors and Rev. A. M. Keifer, Superintendent, want the standards of this new work safeguarded by the employment of a trained social worker.—H. W. H.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA BULLETIN

BOARDING BABIES

In "Hygeia" for October, 1924, Dr. Henry Dwight Chapin writes out of his experience on the Speedwell Plan of organizing groups of boarding homes in neighborhoods, so that the several homes may be more easily supervised and supported. After reviewing the unsatisfactory results of careless boarding work and of concentration in large groups, he writes:

"These babies need individual care in a home, where in addition to medical attention, some kind of mothering can be added. The family represents the earliest human unit of association, antedating both church and state. All remedial efforts, especially for the little child, should begin in the home, and if results are to be satisfactory and enduring should likewise end there. This forms the underlying idea of the Speedwell Plan. . . .

"Efforts are made to train in each unit a number of foster mothers, who, by natural aptitude under instruction and by constantly taking infants and young children into their homes, become quite expert in handling them under conditions totally unlike those offered by institutions and far superior to them. An important educational feature accompanying the work consists in raising the standard of living in the families taking our children. The constant oversight of our doctor and nurse is aimed to help each foster mother in the care of her own children as well. Homes in which the children are placed are helped financially by the payment of board, and morally by the good advice and watching of the trained observers.

"As a rule, one infant is placed in a family, but occasionally two or three may be housed in one home that is exceptionally efficient. A porch or open space is one of the requirements, as plenty of fresh air is a most important feature of our work. In a word, general health propaganda are exercised in every unit operated under the Speedwell Plan."

Of results he has this to say:

"These units can be indefinitely extended as quickly as means are provided. Over 4,000 children have been handled directly by the society, with wonderfully good results, since the work started.

"There has been a lower death rate than that reported in any similar effort. These abandoned children are frequently received in a very poor condition. In 1920, there were three deaths among 302 cases; in 1921, five deaths among 255; in 1922, seven deaths out of 324; in 1923, there was only one death out of 342.

"The low mortality, the marked physical improvement in the great majority of the children, and the few attacks of communicable disease are the outstanding features of the work. By avoiding the massing of susceptible children together, the constant danger of spreading communicable diseases is largely prevented. Thus is removed one of the greatest evils of institutional life. In 1923 there were only seven infections among 342 children; in 1922, eight infections among 324, in 1921, three infections among 255. These infections were brought to the units at the entrance of the children, but there was no further spread."

We quote the above as an outstanding example of the

health results that can be secured in boarding homes, and because it has a definite bearing on the development of so-called "baby cottages." Dr. Chapin is convinced that infants ought not to be care for in groups.—C. W. A.

The various publications from which quotations are made are generally on file in the League's office and may be procured for fuller study.

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

The Juvenile Protective Association of San Francisco has made an investigation of commercial vaudeville performances in which children appeared during March and April, 1924. They found dancing teachers giving instruction to over 300 children between five and fifteen in singing and dancing for the commercialized stage. More than 270 children's performances took place in the eight weeks, 45 per cent. of which were wholly or in part illegal, and much of the singing and dancing was found to be objectionable.

The Federal Children's Bureau has recently published the third part of their study entitled "Illegitimacy As A Child Welfare Problem." It contains the experiences of various communities with this problem. A study of the results of the Minnesota laws contained in it is particularly worthy of perusal.

The people of Massachusetts voted this month by referendum on the Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. The opinion expressed was adverse. The Legislature may or may not be bound by this vote.

The North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare has been granted \$30,000 from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund to be used for the development and extension of the Board's program of public welfare in four counties in the State. This sum is to be given in amounts of \$10,000 a year for three years, beginning July 1, 1924. An equal sum has been given by the Rockefeller Memorial to the School of Public Welfare at the University of North Carolina.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene has almost completed a mental hygiene survey of Texas, part of which will include 3,000 school children and the children in four State institutions for the dependent and delinquent.

The Massachusetts Legislature in 1924 passed an Act authorizing expenditures of public funds for Children's Health Camps for underweight and undernourished school children. Cities and towns accepting this Act

may appropriate money for this purpose. These camps are to be conducted by unpaid commissions.

Certain criticisms having been voiced in Canada as well as in Great Britain of the methods employed in sending children to Canada, and especially with reference to the methods of supervision, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labor, herself came to Canada with a delegation to investigate the problem at first-hand.

The April number of the "Howard Journal," organ of the Howard League for Penal Reform (London), includes an account of the "observation school" at Moll, Belgium, established for the purpose of making a careful study of delinquent boys, before they are committed to institutions or placed on probation. This school is primarily a laboratory where careful psychological investigations are carried on by M. Rouvier, the director. The boys accepted are between seven and twenty-one years. About four hundred pass through the school during a year, staying for two or three months' periods as a rule. Parents and relatives are encouraged to come to the school at any time and this close co-operation between school and parents is often found important in the readjustment of the boy.

After the period of observation many of the boys are placed in boarding homes under the careful supervision of the staff of the school. Whenever possible the boys are returned to their own homes. According to this article during the past year a hundred boys were sent home who would otherwise have gone to an institution.

NEW BOOK

"The Art of Helping." This small and readable volume is the fruit of a pioneer effort to present social case work in a series of ten lectures to New York City board members and other volunteers who have not the time to enroll in longer training courses. Many women (and some men) in every community would like to know more about the point of view and the methods of the local societies they support than they can find in the annual report. Yet the executive is too busy to confer at length with each one and they are too busy to devote time to an extensive training course. Children's work so far as it separates from the other forms of case work is rather briefly dealt with by Mr. C. C. Carstens and Miss Florence Marshall, Principal of the Manhattan Trade School, New York City, but children are not lost sight of in the other topics presented, ranging from the early history of case work, on which Miss Mary E. Richmond spoke, to the work of the Church Mission of Help, described by Mrs. John M. Glenn.

A full description of the purpose and results of the undertaking is included in the Preface. Altogether, a very useful little book.—C. W. A.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Mrs. Jessie Jordan, Superintendent of the California Children's Home Society, writes:

"At our Oakland Home there has just been finished our new hospital unit, an additional glassed-in sleeping porch accommodating seven beds for girls, a twenty foot glassed-in isolation ward to the Nursery, and an open-air play pavilion at an expense of \$4,200, and every penny of this amount was donated by three individuals interested in our special needs. We had our first operation yesterday morning, and a staff of eighteen of the finest physicians in the Bay District are giving their services gratis. We are now in position to have all of our minor surgical operations attended to here. We will be able to keep incoming children isolated until return on culture and Wassermann have made us certain they may enter the Receiving Home and mingle with the other children in perfect safety."

In Canada the Public Child Caring Agencies have assumed large proportions since Provincial Governments became interested in child protection not many years ago. Of the nine provinces all but two are now provincially organized under the legislative enactments. These acts are administered by heads directly responsible to the Minister of the Crown, under whose authority they are placed, and an appropriation of public funds is made by the legislatures. Private agencies are also provided for and under the law become corporate bodies subject to the authority of and fostered by the provincially organized unit. It is the aim of all these provincial units to corral all phases of child neglect, dependency and delinquency under one Central Government Authority.

The Bureau of Children, Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, is legally required to visit every child-caring institution and agency, to make suggestions for improving methods, and to control the placing in Pennsylvania of dependent children from other States. There are in the State 212 institutions for dependents, 26 for delinquents, 57 societies dealing with dependent children, 8 dealing with delinquent children, and 61 day nurseries—a total of 364 agencies. These had under care July 1, 1924, a grand total of 31,605 children.

Regional conferences on child welfare topics, as well as a summer institute for institutional workers, have been held. A study of day nurseries and an investigation of adoption procedure throughout the State have also been carried on. In addition to these activities the Bureau issues pamphlets on various phases of child-care.

Mrs. W. C. Cathcart, Supervisor Child Placing Bureau, State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, writes as follows:

"For lack of space our News Letter omitted an item of importance in our work, namely, the boarding home system. As mentioned previously, we have four very good private boarding homes, two in Columbia and two in adjacent counties. We use these homes temporarily for our children until we are satisfied as to just where they should be placed permanently. These homes are also used by mothers who do not wish to part legally with their children, but place them under our supervision in the homes and pay for their upkeep. The Bureau has splendid co-operation with city and county hospitals and children's clinics, where all of our laboratory work is done."

Dr. Frankwood E. Williams, Medical Director of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, has been elected a member of the Joint Committee on Methods of Preventing Delinquency (The Commonwealth Fund Program for the Prevention of Delinquency), New York. The officers and members of the Committee as it is now constituted are as follows: Barry C. Smith, Chairman; Howard W. Nudd, Treasurer; Graham Romeyn Taylor, Secretary; Julia C. Lathrop, Porter R. Lee, Henry C. Morrison, Barbara S. Quin, Thomas W. Salmon, M.D., Frankwood E. Williams, M.D.

Dr. Neva R. Deardorff, formerly Associate Professor of Social Economy in the Carola Woerishoffer Graduate Department of Social Economy and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa., has been granted a leave of absence to serve as Executive Secretary of the Children's Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In connection with this work she has carried out a detailed study of the working of the adoption laws in the State, and has discovered a number of striking abuses due to failure of the present procedure to provide for adequate investigation. By a coincidence, Dr. Deardorff's place at Bryn Mawr College has been taken by Hornell Hart, who during the past summer acted as the Executive Secretary of the Iowa Child Welfare Commission. This Commission has prepared a report to be submitted to the Legislature in January, 1925. It has been releasing weekly newspaper articles, summarizing the abuses and neglect which now occur in the child welfare field in Iowa because of inadequate laws and administrative machinery.

Dr. Warren B. Hill writes: "The Children's Home Society of Wisconsin reports that in working out its ideal of correlating existing agencies in the state for child welfare and establishing new centers for local

HAVE you read all of the League's publications? We can supply the following in such numbers as are desired:

BULLETIN No. 6.—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children, by Jessie Taft, Ph.D.
Price, Fifteen Cents

BULLETIN No. 7.—What Dependent Children Need. Edited by C. V. Williams.
Price, Fifty Cents

BULLETIN No. 9.—Condensed Report of a Survey of Juvenile Delinquency in Rochester, New York, by Henry W. Thurston.
Price, Fifty Cents

BULLETIN No. 11.—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, by Ruth I. Workum.
Price, Fifteen Cents

CASE STUDIES, CASE NO. 1, Edited by Miss Georgia G. Ralph.
Price, Thirty Cents
Twenty-five or more copies, Twenty-five Cents each

social responsibility, it is organizing women's auxiliaries in the various towns and cities in the State. Mrs. Adeline Rockwood has been assigned to the work of organizing the State. Milwaukee has organized the first auxiliary and it is beginning to function as a medium through which we hope to reach the people. Our Receiving Home or Shelter has not materialized yet, but we hope it will be more than an air castle soon."

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members of League only)

The enclosure for this month is the July issue of "The Family," in which are reprinted a number of the papers given at the National Conference of Social Work, held in Toronto in June, 1924. While some of the members of the League are subscribers to "The Family," these papers are so valuable that we call special attention to them in this way.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that it is now possible for the League to sell Record Form A-1, Record of Child's Own Family, at the reduced price of one cent a copy. In the past this form has been sold for two and a half cents a copy, which was the cost price to us. We have recently had the form electrotyped and are purchasing it in large quantities, and for this reason can make the above mentioned reduction.

INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

President: MISS KATHARINE P. HEWINS, Boston.
Vice-President: ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Lansing, Mich.
Secretary and Treasurer: MRS. L. FREDERIC PEASE, New York.

NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

The Providence, Rhode Island, Conference is basing its winter program on the findings of a report of some 200 unmarried mothers, gathered from the statistics of the Sophia Little Home, the Social Service Departments of the State Infirmary and the Providence Lying-in Hospital. Miss Vinnie Hicks, State Psychologist, analyzes some of these statistics as follows:

"The fact that 73 per cent. of our unmarried mothers are non-American indicates a fact which we know all too well in Rhode Island, namely, that we are not helping our foreign-born to an understanding of good American ideals as we should.

"The per cent. of Catholics follows very closely that of foreign-born, as it naturally would when our immigrants are so largely of that faith. The task before the Catholic Church is large, but intelligent, right-minded human beings have a habit of expanding and strengthening to meet a task and that is what the Church is doing now.

"That nearly a fifth of our girls who bear illegitimate children are only little school girls, is a commentary on our schools. It lies with our Conference to study the facts in our school systems which have to do with this problem. How close can the friendly relation be between teacher and adolescent girl when the teacher has nearly fifty other rampageous youngsters to maintain helpful relations with? What are we giving our girls in school in the way of occupation or of a broadminded teacher-friend that will fill their minds so full of delightful, decent things that there is no room for the bad?

"And there is the mental side as well. Apparently the majority of these mothers are in the high grade moron and border-line groups, many of them able to support themselves after a fashion but always with a maximum of effort for the result accomplished, and usually hampered by lack of moral understanding and weak inhibitory power. Already this phase of the problem is being attacked in our state in a pretty hearty fashion. We know the mental problems with which we have to deal. We are beginning to know what we want to do with them. And just as far as possible we are beginning to carry out some of these plans."

STUDIES IN ADOPTION

In the recently published study, "How Foster Children Turn Out," the State Charities Aid Association has devoted one chapter to a discussion of the 269 children who were legally adopted, this being approximately 30 per cent. of all children studied. There are no figures to show how many of these children were illegitimate, but since 190 were either foundlings or came from families about whom very little was known, it is probable that a large proportion were of illegitimate origin.

The study indicates that this group of adopted children, who on the whole were placed when quite young (82.5 per cent. being less than 5 years old), made excellent adaptation to their foster homes and were able to accept educational opportunities in excess of those children placed at a later age. A larger proportion of them also developed into capable, self-supporting, competent people. How much of the successful outcome of these adopted children was due to the age of placement, how much to the effect of the assured status which adoption gives, and how much to the fact that these children were more or less a selected group placed for adoption because of their greater promise is not determined.

This study, notable in that it is the first extensive study of children placed in free and adoptive foster homes, should be supplemented by others which in due time would furnish answers to some of the questions relating to how and when adoption should be considered for dependent children.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

In an address to a professional medical group, Dr. R. S. Dixon, Director of the Department of Health, Detroit, writing on sex instruction for children, says: "We cannot decide whether a child should receive this information or not. The fact is, the child will receive it and the best we can do is to decide through whom he may receive it. Just how are we to go about this thing? We want to present protective knowledge. It must be scientifically correct, morally safe, and pedagogically sound. It must be given when the person receiving it is in a receptive mood and will give it serious consideration. Why not teach both parents during the pregnancy of the mother and the early infancy of the child those things pertaining to sex that they need to know? At this time both are interested in the anatomy, physiology, and psychology of their reproduction. They are interested in constitutional disorders that affect the vitality of the egg and sperm. They are interested in heredity. They are interested in their social relationship and its possible effects on the well being and success of the little one about whom they are building so many plans. Teach them real names. Thirty words are sufficient to eliminate all the soot. They won't forget. They need these words to talk to their physicians. They need these words to explain life processes to their own children as they grow up. Let parents instruct the children at home. Teach the parents that they may be able to do this important work."

MEMBERSHIP DUES

(INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY)

Individual dues, \$1.00; Group dues, \$5.00, payable to the Treasurer, 1133 Broadway, New York.